

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of April 7, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Ueda et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and addresses the Examiner's disposition below.

Referring to Applicant's Figure 2 as an illustrative example, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 6, each as amended, each claim a liquid crystal display element (*e.g.*, 25R, 25G or 25B) comprising a liquid crystal layer 45. A pixel electrode portion 46 has a plurality of pixel apertures 46A for transmitting light. At least one microlens array 42 has a plurality of microlenses 42M arranged in a two-dimensional form on at least one of a light incident side and a light emergent side of the liquid crystal layer 45 corresponding to the pixel apertures 46A.

Each of the microlenses 42M comprises a light-collecting lens R1 having at least one lens surface in the optical axis direction for collecting incident light toward corresponding one of the pixel aperture 46A, the light-collecting lenses R1 of the plurality of microlenses 42M being contiguous in the two-dimensional form, and a field lens R2 having at least one lens surface in the optical axis direction so that the focal position thereof substantially coincides with the principal point (H1 see Figure 3) of the light-collecting lens R1, the field lenses R2 of the plurality of microlenses 42M being contiguous in the two-dimensional form. Thus, as shown in Figure 2, the light-collecting lenses R1 are contiguous and the field lenses R2 are contiguous.

This is clearly unlike *Ueda*, which fails to disclose or even suggest Applicant's claimed field lenses. Referring to *Ueda* Figure 9, *Ueda* discloses contiguous light-collecting lenses 19, with a two lens pair corresponding to each aperture 20b. As shown, light R1 passes through a first light-collecting lens and light R2 passes through a second light-collecting lens. Both light R1 and light R2 pass through the same aperture 20b.

Unlike Applicant's claims 1 and 6, *Ueno's* field lenses do not have at least one lens surface in the optical axis direction that has a focal position that substantially coincides with the principal point of a light-collecting lens. Referring to *Ueno* Figure 15a, *Ueno* discloses a spheroid reflector 102 and a field lens 105. The spheroid reflector 102 has two focal points at 101 and at 111. (Col. 17, lines 52-64). The spheroid reflector's 102 first focal point coincides with a light source 101, and the second focal point coincides with an integrator 111. The field lens's 105 focal point is not identified, however, there is no teaching in *Ueno* that the field lens's focal point coincides with the principal point of the spheroid reflector 102. Thus, neither the spheroid reflector 102 nor the field lens 105 has a focal point that coincides with the principal point of the other.

Accordingly, neither *Ueno*'s spheroid reflector 102 nor its field lens 105 could disclose or even suggest Applicant's claimed field lens that has a focal position that substantially coincides with the principal point of a light-collecting lens. Therefore, *Ueno* fails to disclose or even suggest claims 1 and 6.

Claims 2-5 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-6 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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